expressed while declining to sign the Comprehensive Test Bano Treaty (CTBT) that it is unacceptable preventing the non-weapon countries from conducting nuclear tests while leaving it open to nuclear weapon States to conduct them; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto by way of securing support to their views and stand on CTBT from other countries and, securing a just and fair perspective in relation to nuclear weapons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In a press statement on July 5, 1997, Government took note of the "sub-critical" test conducted by the United States on July 2, 1997 and expressed concern that the subcritical nuclear test has been justified "as an activity permitted under the CTBT. India has been consistently pointing out in both bilateral and international fora that the CTBT in its present form contains loopholes and without being placed in the context of a phased programme for global nuclear disarmament serves only a discriminatory non-proliferation intent rather than the urgent goal of global nuclear disarmament. India's stand on the CTBT enjoys support from non-aligned countries as well as international non-governmental organisations and the academic community. India believes that a nuclear weapon-free world will enhance our national security as well as global security.

Making Missiles with N-warheads by Pakistan

2491. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report captioned "Pak making N-warheads" which appeared in the Pioneer, dated the 9th July, 1997;

(b) if so, whether Government have since confirmed the reports that Pakistan is making missile with nuclear warhead with Chinese assistance, at its factory at Fateh Ganj; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government are aware of credible reports about Chinese assistance in Pakistan's missile programme. Government have made it clear that these developments pose a threat to India's security and are not conducive to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region. Government have been taking necessary steps to safeguard the security and national interest and will continue to do so in keeping with its assessment of developments pertaining to India's security environment.

Deployment of M-11 Missiles by Pakistan

2492. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have varified the reports that Pakistan has deployed Chinese built M-11 missiles near Indian border; and

(b) if so, the defensive measures taken by India to meet this threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) and (b) Government are aware of credible reports in this regard. The acquisition of missiles and related technologies by Pakistan is being continuously monitored and assessed by Government. Our concerns regarding Pakistan's acquisition of M-11 missiles have been conveyed to the concerned countries. Government remains fully committed to taking all

necessary steps to safeguard India's security and national interest.

Area Occupied by China

2493. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of India, in square kilometres, illegally occupied by China, State-wise and Sector-wise;

(b) whether Minsar village of Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir, with sizeable population, is situated well inside Western Tibet, on the Northern or North-west side of the holy Kailash Parvat;

(c) if so, whether Government have raised the issue of Minsar village with their Chinese counterparts in their several rounds of talks held in the past; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) The area under occupation by China in Jammu & Kashmir is approximately 38,000 sq. kms. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan boundary agreement of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded approximately 5,120 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

(b) and (c) During the India-China officials level talks on the Boundary question in 1960, Minsar village was referred to by the two sides. The location of this village was then described being approximately 200 kms. from Ladakh and on the route to Mansarovar.

(d) Does not arise.

Arrangements for Indian Community in Hong Kong

2494. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the Indian population, particularly Gujarati community, in Hong Kong;

(b) whether there is restlessness on the part of Indian community there, after handing over of Hong Kong to Chinese Government on 1st July, 1997; and

(c) if so, what arrangements Government have made for the Indian community, in consultation with the Chinese Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): According to the information available with the Government, there are approximately 28,000 persons of Indian origin resident in Hong Kong, of which about 22,000 are Indian passport holders; the remaining hold British or third country documents. According to the information available with the Consulate General of India, Hong Kong, there are approximately 1000 person, of Gujarati origin in Hong Kong of whom about 600 are permanent residents.

(b) and (c) Government has not come across reports of any particular sense of restlessness in the Indian community in Hong Kong following the resumption of sovereignty by China July 1, 1997.

The Chinese and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) authorities have expressed appreciation of the contribution of the Indian community to Hong Kong's economic development and its social and cultural life. The Chief Executive Officer of the HKSAR, Mr. Tung Chee-Hwa, has assured Government that the Indian community would continue to be welcome in Hong Kong.

Sino-Indian Protests against US Violation of CTBT

2495. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to the Chinese protest against